

THE
Bird-Fancier's Recreation:

R Being Curious

REMARKS

On the NATURE of

SONG-BIRDS,

With Choice

INSTRUCTIONS

Concerning

The *Taking, Feeding, Breeding* and *Teaching* them, and to know the Cock from the HEN.

A L S O

The Manner of taking Birds with Lime-Twigs, and the Preparations necessary thereto.

W I T H

An Account of the *Distempers* incident to SONG-BIRDS, and the *Method* to cure them.

The Third EDITION with ADDITIONS.

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. WARD, and Sold at his House at the Bell and Bird-Cage, the Corner of Silver-Street, in Wood-Street, near Cripple-Gate, and at his House at the Bird-Cage on Stamford-Hill. 1735.



T H E
P R E F A C E.

Courteous Reader,



H E R E having been long since
Published several TREATISES of
Hunting, Hawking, Fowling,
and Fishing, but none of SONG-
BIRDS (at least none wholly treating thereof)
I have here presented my Countrymen, who
have a Fancy this Way, with one, collected
not only from what has been hitherto scatter-
ingly published concerning them, but from di-
ligent Observations of my own, and others I
have convers'd with, who have been curious
in the Breeding and Bringing them up, by 30
or 40 Years Experience: And as nothing mag-
nifies and sets forth the Power of our Great
CREATOR, more than these pretty harmless
Animals, whether we respect their Velocity,
Beauty, and Glorious Colours of their
Plumes; or their Melodious Songs, so they
bring infinite Delight and Satisfaction to their
Keepers, and do sweetly recompence their Pains
and Charge in bringing them up by their plea-
sant Harmony: You enjoy in your Houses or
Aviaries, all the Melody of the Woods. I

The PREFACE.

shall not pretend to answer a common Objection, which some austere Men (pretending to more Humanity than the rest of their Neighbours) make against the Confining of Song-Birds in Cages, &c. as thereby abridging them of their natural Liberty, but only this, St. John certainly thought it no Crime, if he had, he would not have confin'd a tame Partridge to divert himself withal; and That as GOD ALMIGHTY created all Things for the Use and Pleasure of Man, so he has not debarr'd the innocent Enjoyment of them. And I verily believe, that by this Means many of these harmless pretty Animals are often preserved and protected from the inclement Weather and violent hard Seasons. I have little to say of the BOOK but hope it will recommend itself by the many uncommon Observations in it, the like not being hitherto Publish'd in all Respects.

Adieu.

CURIOUS

CURIOUS
REMARKS

On the Nature of
SONG-BIRDS, &c.

Of the Nightingale.

I Begin with the *Nightingale*, it being a curious fine Bird, and in my Opinion, the best of Birds; for he sings his Songs with so much Pleasantness, that no Bird can out-do him; he sings seven or eight Months in the Year, and commonly begins about the latter End of *October*, or the Beginning of *November*, and holds it out all the Winter, and to the latter End of *June*. I have heard him sing at Twelve a-clock at Night, divers Notes. He is a stout Bird, and has a large Voice. I have heard one sing for half an Hour against a Wood-Lark, and I thought he would have dropt down off his Perch, by reason of his Stoutness and Freedom, rather than be out-done.

These Birds are never seen in the Winter in any known Part of the World, so far as I can learn from all Travellers I have con-

vers'd with (except those kept in Cages) which occasions various Opinions where they go at that Time, and as I believe no one can give a true Account of them, I shall say nothing about it, but content myself with the Knowledge I have, that is, This Bird may be catch'd about the 25th of *March*, or the Beginning of *April*, until the 10th or 12th, which generally proves a Cock, and then about that Time his Hens come, which make him very rank, so without a great deal of Care, you will lose a great many that are catch'd after that Time. You may catch them divers Ways, at several Seasons of the Year; that is to say, you may catch *Branchers* in *July*, or the Beginning of *August*, but I think *April* is the only Time, for the best Birds. There are several Ways used in catching of Birds; one Way, by making a Hole in the Ground, and setting a Board or Tile over it, sticking two or three Meal-Worms upon the Stick that holds up the Board or Tile, and the Bird coming with Eagerness to catch the Worm, falls down in the Hole, and cannot easily get out again. Another Way of catching them, is, by making your Observations whereabouts they sing, and beating the Leaves away as much as you can; then take a Bit of a Stick, put the Meal-Worm upon a Pin, and stick the Pin upon a Lime Twig,

Twig, then lay it upon the Top of a Stick, and when he comes in its Places as before, and spies the Meal-Worm, he comes greedily to take it from the Lime Twig, which holds him fast that he cannot move. But the best Way of taking them, in my Opinion, is, in a little Trap, call'd the Nightingale's Trap. I myself have taken a dozen in one Day in this Trap: It is about the Bigness of a round Trencher; I have them made with a green Silk Net, a Watch Spring and a Wire as round as the Trencher, with the Net fasten'd to it; there is a little Cork that comes through, and a little String which comes through likewise, and holds up the Trap, in which stick a Pin with a Meal-Worm upon it, and your Cork very slight in it, and when your Bird pulleth the Worm, the Net falleth on the Top of it: You must go and place your Trap as near where the Bird sings as you can; if it is in the Middle of the Hedge, or a Place where he used to feed, before you fix the Trap, turn up the Earth about twice the Bigness of the Trap, for they look for the Food where the Ground is new turned up, and espying the Worm they come presently to it, and if they come not presently, you may turn up twice or three Times more, for they will not forsake the Place where they use to resort. You may

commonly find them by the Side of a Chalk and Sandy Hill; likewise in a Wood, or a Coppice, or Quick-set Hedge. When you have taken your Bird, tie his Wings together with a Bit of Thread, for they are of a wild Nature when they are first catch-ed, but come presently tame and pleasant to their Keeper.

When you have tyed their Wings at the End as soon as taken, then pluck or cut their Feathers from their Vent, otherwise they will be subject to clog and bake up their Vent, which is present Death.

When you go to catch them, take some of your Sheep's Heart and Egg with you, in two or three Hours after taken you must cram them, open their Bills with a Quill or a Stick made for that Purpose, let your Meat be very moist, and take the Bigness of a great Pea, and they will presently swallow; and when you find they swallow it, you may put three or four according as they take them; you must give them a-bout the same Quantity once in an Hour and half, or two Hours at farthest; when you get them Home, put them in a Cage, a Nightingale Back-Cage, or if an open Cage, throw a Cloth over one Side of the Cage; and when you have cram'd them for a Day and a half, put a small Quantity of Meat in their Pan, and stick it full of
Ants,

Ants, or in a Jelly Glass and sweep some Ants upon it (which you may fix between the lower Peach and Side of the Cage) and they can't easily get out, which will soon learn them to feed, but be sure you don't trust them to themselves too soon, and put Ants-Mould at the Bottom of the Cage; let it be almost an Hour before you put the Victuals to him, after you have cram'd him, and put him to the Light, then he will the sooner take to his Feed, so you may let him alone for a Quarter of an Hour, or near half an Hour and then if you find he has eaten the Ants out of his Meat, fill it up again; take them clean out of the Mould, not to daub the Victuals; your best Way will be to take a little of the Ants-Mould, and lay it upon a Sheet of white Paper; when you stir the Mould a little, the Ants will run about the Paper, then you take your Finger or a little Brush, and brush it off into their Victuals.

As soon as you perceive him to feed, you need not cram him any more, but still continue to supply him with Ants for one Day longer, or more, if you see Occasion.

You must still continue to keep his Wings tyed, and you'll find if he is a kindly Bird, he'll sing with you in a Week's Time. I have heard them sing the next
Day

Day after they fed themselves ; when you find they begin to be familiar, you may hang them where you please.

There are several Opinions as to the Choice of this Bird, some are for a Nestling, and others for a Brancher, but I am for a Bird that is catch'd in the Beginning of *April* ; I have brought up several Nestlings which sing very stout, but they are apt to take any Note they happen to hear ; as likewise will a Brancher ; but a Bird catch'd in *April*, will sing nothing but his own natural Song, which, I am persuaded, is the finest Harmony that any Bird can make.

Concerning their FOOD.

I Have heard them talk of Feeding them several Ways, one Way is with a Paste that they make in *Germany* ; there is also another Sort of Food that is made up of Paste and Herbs, and a little Flesh Meat amongst it, which will keep for near a Week ; but I know a Gentleman who had some of this Paste, and gave an extraordinary Price for the Bird, which when he eat of, he soon after died.

My Way of Feeding is with Sheep's Heart and Egg, thus : I take my Heart and give it them in the Summer-Time, raw, chopp'd very fine, and likewise boil
an

an Egg very hard, so that I can grate it with a Grater which I have for that Purpose; I put one large Egg to one Heart, and chop it extraordinary fine, and having a little Water to sprinkle it, I mix it together till it is as thick almost as a Salve, but moist withal; for if it be too dry, it makes them vent-bound, and if too large, they cannot digest it; you must also take great Care not to leave any String in the Heart, for it is apt to get about the Tongue; I have had them dye within twenty-four Hours, before I understood what was the Matter; you may know it by their gaping, and making a Motion as if they would vomit, at which Time, if you perceive it, take hold of it, open its Mouth, and draw it away with a Needle, if possible; and when you have done, give him a Meal Worm or a Spider. I have saved more Birds by giving them a Spider, than any Thing again, but I don't give them above two in one Day; this is the only Food that I find to preserve them. If your Number be but small, half an Egg and half a Sheep's Heart, or if you have but one, the Quantity accordingly. You may take a Fowl's Heart with about as much Egg as the Heart, which will make Victuals for one Bird a whole Day. In the Winter I parboil my Heart, and then order it as I do
the

the raw, except instead of Water I use some of the Liquor the Heart was boild in, but be sure you don't let any of the Fat go amongst it. I give them fresh Victuals every Day, for if it begins to be stale, they are apt to fling it up, for they don't love it after it begins to smell. I put them Ants Mould in the Bottom of the Cage, which I generally shift twice a Week; this is all I feed them with, when they are well. They are Birds that always dung loose, and if I find their Dung little looser than ordinary, I take a little Hemp-Seed, bruised or ground extraordinary well, and put about the Quantity as will lie upon a Silver Groat, and mix it well with a Sheep's Heart and Egg; you may if you please give them now and then a Fig, or Bit of fine Loaf Sugar. It might be expected that I should describe how to know the Cock from the Hen, but that being difficult, I shall only say, that the best Way is to know them by their Vent, in *April*; or, as by a other Birds, by their Largeness, or when you hear them sing.

How to find the Nightingale's Nest and take it.

SHE builds commonly in a close Quickset Hedge, at the Comb of the Ditch, where there is great Store of Briers, and other

ther Materials to keep her from her Enemies.

She builds a Nest of a different Kind from any other Bird; she has Young-ones about the Middle of *May* fit to take; I would not have you take them too young, but let them be very well feather'd before you take them: I have had them taken too young, when they are very subject to the Cramp and Looseness, which makes their Feathers all matted together, and I can never raise them. You may let them lie in the Nest till they can fly almost as well as the Old-one; if they be fullen, you may open their Mouths, as I told you by the Old-one, and give them three or four Bits at a Time, then tye them close down in a Basket for two or three Days, and feed them once in two Hours, then cage them up, and in two or three Days they'll take their Victuals off the Stick; I have had them feed themselves in three Days after they were taken out of the Nest: I feed them with nothing but Sheep's Heart and Egg, raw, as I directed you before: While they are young, put a little Straw or dry Moss in the Bottom of the Cage, but when they come to be larger, give them Ants Mould as you do the Old-one. I would likewise desire you to learn them to feed of live Food, as Ants, Spiders, Flies or Meal Worms; I don't
give

give them a great deal of live Food, but in case of Sickness it is necessary. I have raised thirty one Nightingales in one Summer, and not lost one before they moulted; I have had several Fanciers of Nightingales come, and would persuade me they were either Branchers or old Ones, because they were raised so clean. This makes me a little curious, because if the Nightingale is not kept clean, he seldom or ever comes to any Thing; as soon as they come to feed themselves well, I put them in a Cage, and in two or three Days put a little Saucer of Water, where they will dabble and wash themselves, and be as clean as any Birds in the Fields. When you have had them in single Cages two or three Days you will hear the Cocks record.

I would not be thought to be too tedious with this Bird, it being a Bird that I esteem very much.

The Wood-Lark.

THIS Bird is a very fine, melodious Bird, having a delightful Variety of Notes, and is thought by a great many Fanciers, to exceed the Nightingale. I have had them sing against a Nightingale a whole Hour, striving to outdo him, so that I have been forced to take him from the Place

Place where he hung, for fear he should kill himself with striving against the Nigh-tingale.

This Bird sings nine Months in the Year; he is a very plentiful Bird about the Beginning of *September*, or *Michaelmas*; he is to be taken with Nets called *Clap-Nets*, such as you catch your Linnets or other small Birds with, and those Birds that are catch'd at this Time of the Year, I reckon to be the best, because keeping them all the Winter makes them more tame and familiar than a Bird catch'd in *January* or *February*, and holds its Song longer in the Summer; a Bird catch'd in *January*, is a very stout Bird, and will sing in three Days after he is taken, and commonly will sing stouter and louder than a *Michaelmas* Bird, but not hold his Song so long. A Bird that is taken in *February*, at his Layer, when he is matched with his Hen, I have heard sing as soon as he is taken, all the Way in bringing Home; but by the reason of his Rankles will presently fall off his Song, and you will have but little more from him all that Summer.

There is likewise another Way of taking our Wood-Larks, that is in *June* or *July*, which we call Branchers, which is a young Bird that is bred, and flew that Year, about two or three Months old, which you may

may take with a Net of about eleven, twelve or thirteen Yards long, and about three or four Yards broad, with a Line run through the Middle of it. You must likewise have a Hawk called a *Hobby*, or a *Casterel*, or a *Wind Haver*; there must be two, one to carry the Hawk, and the other to take hold of one End of the Line; and when you find a Parcel of Wood-Larks, which lie commonly in Pasture, or common Sort of Ground, or by the Gravel-Pits, get as near them as you can; then show your Hawk up upon your Hand, making him hover his Wings, which when the Larks perceive, they will lie very close to the Ground; then you take hold at one End of the Line, and another at the other End, till you come at the Place where they are, holding your Hawk up as you go. I have known them lie so close for fear of the Hawk, that they have been taken up by Hand, without the Net's being over them. Those Birds are pretty Birds, and presently will become tame, but is not in my Mind, so good as a *Michaelmas* Bird, which you may take at that Time very plenty, with Clap-Nets as you do other small Birds, having one in a Cage to call them; if you lay your Nets in the Cart-Way, or otherwise Dust in the Nets, or turn up the Ground and make a Spot which will cause him to drop,

drop, place your Call Bird by the Staff, next to the Line; lie upon as high Ground as you can, for Wood-Larks fly very high that Time of the Year.

How to take them in January.

THEY commonly lye near a Wood-Side in Pasture-Ground, where the Sun rises; you must take your Clap-Nets, and lay them as you do at *Michaelmas*; you must have a good Call-Bird and a Brace-Bird which stands betwixt your Nets: When you perceive the Bird lower which is a singing up, then show your Brace-Bird, which when he sees he'll presently drop to it: Those Birds that are taken at this Time of the Year, are very nigh as good as any, and sing in three Days Time after they are taken, and put in a Cage; bruise them Hemp-Seed, or grind it very fine, and mix it with Bread; put in about half as much Hemp-Seed as Bread at the first, then put some red Gravel in the Bottom of the Cage, and when you have mix'd your Bread and Hemp-Seed very well, throw some of it upon the Gravel, for they will sooner choose when they are first taken, to feed in the Bottom of the Cage than in the Trough; I commonly throw them some Victuals for two or three Days, and likewise some Victuals in the Trough; when you perceive them

them feed heartily out of the Trough, then
 there is no Occasion to put any at the Bot-
 tom; this is my Way of feeding them when
 they are first taken; when he is come to his
 Meat, I don't give him so much Hemp-Seed
 I give him but a very little, and a little
 Maw-Seed, and boil an Egg very hard;
 either grate it with a Grater, or chop it ve-
 ry fine, but grating is the best, and so mix
 it amongst his Bread and Hemp-Seed and
 Maw-Seed; one Egg will serve six Wood-
 Larks very well for two Days, I feed them
 every other Day, and if they have then any
 Victuals left, I throw it away, and give
 them fresh, because it is apt to be stale and
 sour, or dry, and will spoil the fresh Meat
 if mixed with it; I give them likewise
 sometimes a little Sheep's Heart, Mutton,
 Veal or Lamb, or any Sort of Flesh-Meat,
 boiled or roasted, so it be not salt, or too
 much done. This is the only Food that I
 feed them with, when they are well. If I
 find them out of Order, I give them some
 Meal-Worms, or Hog-Lice, not exceeding
 above two or three in a Day, because if
 you give them too many they will hanker
 after them, and neglect their Food, which
 is not so wholesome for them. If I find
 them troubled with the Looseness, I grate
 some Chalk or Cheese in the Bottom of
 the Cage, or amongst their Victuals, and
 instead

instead of Gravel put Mould full of Ants
at the Bottom of his Cage, which I take
to be the best Live-Food you can give him.

If you think he don't sing so free or so
stout as you would have him, you may put
a little Bit of Stick-Liquorice, and a Blade
of Saffron in his Water, which I look upon
will clear his Voice, and make him sing
stouter.

To know the Cock from the Hen.

SOME say by the Length of his Heel,
and also by the Largeness of his Wing;
likewise by his setting up the Crown upon
his Head; others say, that if he double his
Call two or three Times, he is certainly a
Cock, but I find all those Things ground-
less, for I have chosen a Parcel of Wood-
Larks, and have not been mistaken in one.
My Way of chusing them is, by the Length
of the Bird; the longest Bird is a Cock.
What I always chuse is for the biggest and
longest Bird, I always find them prove to
be Cocks; however, when you have taken
them, put them in a single Cage, and if
they be good Birds, they will sing in two
or three Weeks Time.

This is the best Bird that is kept in a
Cage, excepting a Nightingale; he has
such a curious, fine, melodious Song, that
he'll take from no other Bird but himself,
except

except it be one brought up from the Nest, which I have known to be brought up to the Pipe.

This is a hot-mettled Bird, and breeds very soon in the Year; I have had them fly by the 25th of *March*; If you have a mind to bring them up, you may feed them with Nightingale's Victuals, putting in a small Matter of Hemp-Seed bruised or ground, or a little Sweet-Almond, and mix amongst it; let them be very well feather'd before you take them, or else you will find it very difficult to bring them up. When you take them, tie them down in a Basket, and give them four, five or six Bits at a Time, once in two Hours, according as their Stomach will bear it; they are very much subject to the Cramp, and very hard to moult, but if you will raise them, give them good Store of Nightingale's Food, or any other Flesh-Meat. I find that is the best Food to make them moult. In my Opinion, it is not worth while to bring them up from the Nest, unless they be brought up to the Pipe, their own Song being so very good, and exceeding all other Sorts of Birds so much. I have known those so tame that were taken at *Michaelmas* Time, that would eat Victuals out of a Man's Fingers, and play with them as if he was brought up from the Nest.

A plea-

*A pleasant Story of the Wood-Lark and
Nightingale.*

MY self and a Gentleman going to catch Nightingales near *Shooters-Hill*, hard by a Coppice or Wood-Side, heard a Nightingale sing so sweerly, as to my thinking, I never heard the like in all my Life, although I have heard many in my Time, for the Place being in a Valley, and the Coppice on the Side of it, made all the Notes of the Nightingale seem double with the Eccho; we had not staid there long, but comes a Wood-Lark, and lights upon the Twig of an Oak, and there they sang, each striving to outvy the other; in a short space more, about an hundred Paces off, lights another Wood-Lark, distant from the first; and under him, as near as we could judge, was another Nightingale; these four Birds sang with so melodious Harmony, warbling out their pleasant Notes for above a whole Hour, that never any Musick came in Comparison with it, to the pleasing of our Ears; as soon as the Wood-Larks were gone, the Nightingales, we supposed, went a little to refresh Nature, having played their Parts so well, that every Bird in the highest Degree strove for Mastery. My Friend and I having stood

stood a full Hour to hear these Songsters charming our Ears, at our going, I persuaded him to sing a merry Catch under the Wood-Side; which he had no sooner began, but one of the Nightingales came and bore his Part, and in a Minute's Time came the other to bear his Part, still keeping of their Stations, and my Friend and I standing between them (for it is observed by all that know the Nature of the Nightingale, that he will suffer no Competitor, if he be able to master him, if not, he will sometimes rather die than give place) and so he sang three or four merry Songs, and the Birds singing with him all the Time; and as he raised his Notes, so did they, that he did protest, that he never enjoyed more Pleasure in so short a Time in all his Life; for the Coppice or Wood being upon the Side of a Hill, and a Valley in the Bottom, so doubled all their Notes, with such a sweet and pleasant Eccho, that I am confident none could think the Time long in the hearing of so sweet, delightful, and a pleasant Harmony.

The Skie-Lark.

HE is a very stout Bird, very lavish in his Song, and sings eight or nine Months in the Year; he is a very good Bird,

Bird, if he can be kept from hearing other Birds, but if he hears other Birds, he is a perfect Mock-Bird, and will take what he hears, whether good or bad, especially them that are brought up from the Nest, which I take to be best, provided you can get a good Song-Bird to bring them up. I have known them sold for five or six Guineas a Bird. They are a very long liv'd Bird, and very hardy; I myself have bid twenty Shillings for a Bird that was twenty Years of Age; they have young ones about the middle or latter End of *April*; and breed three or four Times in the Year, but I look upon a Bird that is hatch'd in *April* or *May* to be the best. They commonly breed in your Fields of high Grass, or in the Marshes. I have had them in a Wheat-field, or in Peas or Oats, according to the season of the Year. I have taken them upon the Common or Heath.

How to Feed them.

LET them be, before you take them, about ten or twelve Days old, if they are older, they are apt to run out of their Nest. I have seen them run out in ten Days in a dripping Weather. When you have taken them, put a little Hay in a Basket, and put them in, and tie them close down, as I told you by the Wood-Larks, and take a
B
little

little white Bread and Milk, and boil it very stiff, so that it be as thick as a Pultice. I likewise take some Rape-Seed, and soak it three or four Hours in Water, and then boil it up, and either grind it or beat it in a Mortar, or with a Glass-Bottle upon a Table; take about a third Part of Rape-Seed to the white Bread and Milk, and feed them once in two Hours; give them about five or six Bits to each Bird, mixed very well together; you must give them every Day fresh Victuals, or else it will grow sour and spoil them. I likewise give them now and then a little flesh Meat, Sheep's Heart, &c. You must put them in a Cage as soon as you can, that is to say, keep them three or four Days in a Basket, or a Week if they are young, then take a little Hay cut it very short, and put it in the Bottom of the Cage, or else a little coarse Bran, but I prefer Hay before it, because they are apt to drop their Victuals in the Bottom of the Cage, and when they pick it up again, do pick some of the Bran, which doth them no good. You must turn their Hay up, or shift them once a Day, for if you do not keep them clean, they seldom come to any Thing; they require a large Cage. I have never any smaller than a Foot square. I keep them in Hay or Bran, till they feed themselves with dry Meat; that is to say, Bread only
Egg

Egg, and Hemp-Seed, which they will do
 in about three Weeks or a Month. When
 you put them first in a Cage, shew them
 their Victuals upon the Point of a Stick
 made for that Purpose. This will make
 them learn to feed themselves, and likewise
 tame. I have brought them up so tame,
 that they would follow me about the House,
 and sit upon my Hand, which indeed is a
 great Rarity in a Skie-Lark, as I told you
 before, when they come to feed them-
 selves upon dry Meat, you must boil your
 Egg very hard, so that you may grate it
 with a Grater, or chop it, as I told you
 by the Wood-Larks, you must bruise your
 Hemp-Seed at the first, and put about half
 as much Hemp-Seed as Egg, one Egg, and
 the Quantity of a Half-penny Loaf, will
 serve half a Dozen Birds. When they are
 young, I serve them every Day; about a
 Month old, I put them some fine dry Gra-
 sel at the Bottom of the Cage, and a Turf
 of three leaved Grass. I still stick them a
 little soft Victuals at the Side of the Cage,
 or fear they should pine after it, which
 when they take to eat dry Victuals, they'll
 have off soft of themselves. This is all I
 have fed them with, except a little Flesh-Meat
 now and then, and bruised Hemp-Seed, 'till
 they have done Moulting, then I feed them
 only with a Turf of three leaved Grass once
 a Week,

a Week, and every other Day Bread, Eggs, and a little whole Hemp-Seed.

How to know a Cock from a Hen.

SOME will tell you by his long Claw, others by the two white Feathers in the Tail; and others by setting up his Copples Crown; but all this is no certain Rule. In my Opinion, the largest and longest Bird in the Nest I always did find did prove to be Cocks. There is no certain Rule to know them by, but only the Bigness and Largeness. The best Way is to take the largest Bird and put it in a Cage by itself, and then you'll hear him record his Song by that Time it is three Weeks or a Month old; the Hens will make some small Noise, but not any thing of a Song. I have had the Cocks at a Month old, get into one Corner of the Cage, and repeat all their Notes over like the old one, but not so loud, and those Birds that do so, you may depend upon their being Cocks.

To take Branchers or Pushers.

A Pusher is a Bird that is taken three or four Days after he is flown out of the Nest, if you let him lie so long to be run out, then you may place yourself in a Hedge, or in any convenient Place, where you can see the old one to bring him Meat, which

when

when you perceive to feed, run upon him as fast as you can, by which Means you will find the young ones. I have taken three at three Times running up. When you have got them, cram them with a little Sheep's-Heart, and lay a little Hay at the Bottom of the Cage, and feed them with Flesh-Meat, Bread and Milk, and Rape-Seed, as I told you before of the Nestling. This Bird, in my Esteem, is as good, or better than a Nestling.

The Brancher.

IS taken in *June* or *July*, with a Hawk and a Net, the same Way as I told you of the Wood-Lark: What I call a Brancher, is a Bird taken at full Growth, almost as big as the Old one, but having all his Nestling Feathers, I look upon those Birds to be very good, and come very little short of a Nestling or a Pusher; but when you take them in Moults, or moulted off, I don't look upon them to be so good, by reason when they are moulting in the Fields and taken, their Feathers sets so, I look upon them not to moult so well that Year, and they very seldom prove to be so good Birds. To know the Cock from the Hen of a Brancher, chuse the longest and largest Bird, I told you before; when you have taken them, give them Bread, Egg, and bruised

Hemp-Seed ; put in the Bottom of the Cage red Sand, and strew them a little Meat in the Bottom of the Cage for three or four Days, so they will presently become tame and familiar.

To take the Skie-Lark in Flight.

YOU take them as you do other small Birds, with a Clap-Net ; in the Country, about *Dunstable*, and several other Places, they take them with a Glass, called a Larking-Glass. These Glasses are made of the Bigness and Shape of a Cucumber hollow within, and three, four, or five Holes cut round, and Pieces of Looking-Glasses placed in ; it is fixed by a Staff, and run out like a Whirligig, having a Line which comes where we stand, at a pull Pin, we work it backwards and forwards. This must be of a Sun-shiny Day, then the Larks will play the better, the Glass glittering, and the Larks playing about, and seeing themselves in it, makes them come down to it as soon as they come within Pull, pull the Nets over them. By this I have known in the Country, ten or fifteen Dozen taken in a Morning.

This Lark is taken in dark Nights with a Net, called a Trammel ; it is a Net of twenty six or thirty Yards long, and is

over

over, run thro' with six Ribs of Packthread, which Ribs are at the Ends, put upon two Poles sixteen Foot long, made taper at each End, and is carried between two Men half a Yard from the Ground, every six Steps touching the Ground, to cause the Birds to fly up, otherways you may carry the Net over them, without disturbing of them. When you hear them fly against the Net, clap the Net down, and they are safe under it. In the Vale there is hardly a Farmer without one of these Nets. This is a very murdering Net, taking all Sorts of Birds that it comes near, as Partridges, Quails, Woodcocks, Snipes, Fieldfares, &c. almost in every dark Night; I have known them that have taken twenty Dozen of Larks in a Night.

Another Way of taking your Lark is in a great Snow, you must take one hundred or two hundred Yards of Packthread, at every six Inches fasten a Noose made with Horse-Hair (two Hairs twisted together is sufficient) the more Line the better; for it will reach the greater Length, and consequently have the more Sport; at every twenty Yards you must have a little Stick to thrust into the Ground, and so go on till it be all set: I have known them that have had a thousand Yards, then amongst the Nooses scatter some white Oats from one

end to the other and you'll find the Larks flock extraordinary; and when three or four are taken, (for you will have them by the Neck, Leg, or Claw) take them out, otherwise they'll make the rest shy, and when you are at one End, they will be at the other a Feeding, so you need not fear scaring of them away, for it makes them more eager at their Food; if it be after *Christmas* before the Snow fall, those Birds seldom or never prove good for Singing.

This Bird is a very fine, hardy, strong Bird, and seldom sick, if you let him have a Turf of three leaved Grass once or twice in a Week.

If you find him out of order, that is, the Dung loose, grate a little *Cheshire*, or other Cheese, in his Victuals, and give him some Wood-Lice, three or four in a Day, which is very good; likewise put a little Liquorice, and a Blade of Saffron in his Water, which is very good, and will make him sing clear; if this will not do, give him now and then a Spider. This is all that is needful for a Skie-Lark.

The Tit-Lark.

THIS Bird is like a great many others, some are very good Song-Birds, and some worth but little; there are some in

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my Opinion, outdo a Skie-Lark for Fine-
 ness of their Song ; they are very proper
 Birds to be kept with Skie-Larks or young
 Canary Birds ; they take a great Delibera-
 tion in their Song, some of them will chew,
 whisk, weet and rattle to a great Length,
 likewise they run their Feet and their Sneez-
 ing, and twink two or three Ways, and such
 Bird as this is of great Value for raising
 up other Birds under him ; they are very
 handsome, long, taper Birds, much about
 the Size of a Nightingale ; they don't sing
 above four or five Months in the Year, that
 is, *March, April, May, and June*, and some
 in *July*. This Bird is a very hardy Bird,
 but I think them not worth while to bring
 up from the Nest, by reason they are caught
 from the 25th of *March*, till the 10th or
 12th of *April*. You catch them with Nets,
 called Clap-Nets, as you do Linnets or
 other small Birds. If you catch them late-
 ly they grow rank, and won't sing much
 in a Cage that Summer. As soon as you
 have catch'd them, tie their Wings as you
 do a Nightingale's. You must have a Cage
 looser than a common Wood-Lark's Cage ;
 put a little Ant's Mold, with Ant's, in the
 bottom of the Cage ; for his Victuals, take
 a little of the best Bread, make it very fine,
 grate it with a Grater for that purpose ;
 make about half the Quantity of Bread as

Hemp-Seed, bruise it very fine, or beat it in a Mortar, or grind it in a Mill ; then mix it up with the Bread, throw a little in at the Top of the Cage, which when your Bird sees the Ants, he'll come down and feed presently ; in about an Hour's Time you may look whether he has been eating Bread and Hemp-Seed ; if not, strew another Handful of your Ants and Mold in the Bottom, and a little more Bread and Hemp-Seed on the Top of it ; if you find this will not do, take two or three Meal-Worms, cut them in half with a Pair of Scissors, and put them in the Bottom, amongst the Bread and Hemp-Seed ; set him in a light Place where he may not be disturbed ; you may be sure this will make him feed. You may keep him to this Victuals two or three Days, then you may feed them as the Skie Lark or Wood-Lark, only bruise the Hemp Seed, and he'll sing in a Week or ten Days at farthest. I have heard them sing the second or third Day after they were caught. This Bird may likewise be taken with Lime Twigs ; carry a Call-Bird of the same Sort when you go and find a good Tit-Lark to your Mind, place your Call-Bird six or seven Yards from the Tree where you heard him sing ; if you find a Mole-Hill, or Ant Hill, dig it up, and put your Call-Bird just by ; set three or four Lime-Twigs round

your Cage, place the great End of the Lime-Twig upon the Ground, and the other End against the Side of the Cage; they are a Bird that will run very much about the other Bird in the Cage; take Care you lay the Twig that he cannot run round the Cage, and a great chance but some of the Twigs will lay hold on him; place yourself in a Hedge, as private as you can, and as soon as you find them fast, run, for I have lost some before I could get at them.

If you have not Conveniency to set but in high Grass, take a Stick about a Yard long, put a Nail into the Stick, almost at the Top, and hang your Cage upon it, then lay two or three Twigs on the Top of your Cage, the End of the Twigs to come over your Cage, and when they come to settle on the Top of the Cage, if you lay your Twigs well, they are certainly taken. When you have taken them, tie the Wings, and manage them the same Way as those that are taken in the Nets. These Birds breed amongst the Grass, or Peas, or Beans, and for those that are desirous to bring them up from the Nest, must feed them in the same Manner as is order'd from the Wood-Lark, it may be expected I should give some Account how to know the Cock from the Hen, but it being a difficult Thing to know I must refer them, to find them out by their singing,

ing, which will soon be perceived in Nestlings by their recording. This is all that is needful concerning the Tit-Lark.

The Robin-Red-Breast.

THE next to the Wood-Lark, in my Opinion, for a Song-Bird, is the little Robin-Red-Breast ; he singeth very sweetly, and I have known many to esteem him little inferiour to the Nightingale. I do not know but that he ought to have as great Esteem as he ; but Plenty of any Bird makes them not valued, tho' never so good in its Kind. This Bird is seen in the Winter, upon the Tops and Roofs of Houses, and upon old Ruins, on that Side most commonly that the Sun riseth and shineth in the Morning, or under some Covert, where the Cold and Wind may not pinch him, for he is but a tender Bird. We commonly put them into Nightingales or Wood-Larks Cages, only closer wiew'd ; they breed very early in the Spring, and commonly three times in the Year, in *April, May and June* ; they make their Nest with a dry greenish Moss, and quilt it with a little Wool and Hair ; they have five or six young Ones at a time, and seldom less than four : They build in some old Hay-House, or Barn, or Rick of Hay or Corn, or Banks towards

the Top, and when they are about ten Days old, you may take them from the old Ones, and keep them in a little Basket or Box; if you let them tarry too long in the Nest, they will be fullen, and so consequently much more trouble, and not fit to be brought up under another Bird, or whistled too. You must feed them with Sheep's Heart and Egg, minced small, in all Points as you feed Nightingales, and but a little at once, and pretty often, by reason of its bad Digestion; for if you give him too much at a Time, he is very apt to throw it up again, which is a sign that he is not long-liv'd. Be sure he lies warm, and especially in the Night: When you find them begin to be strong, you may Cage them, and let them have some Moss at the Bottom of the Cage, and stand warm, put the Meat in the Pan or Box, both of the Sheep's Heart and Egg, and let them have something of the Wood-Lark's mix'd Meat by them, for those I brought up with Sheep's Heart and Egg, when they came to feed themselves would rather eat the Wood-Lark's Meat, than the Sheep's Heart and Egg; you may give him which you will, according to your Conveniency. A Robin will not touch a Hairy Catterpillar, but will gladly eat any smooth one, and there is no better Way to tame, and make wild Birds sing, than to give

give them a pleasing Insect or two: They are neither a slender nor thick Bill'd Bird, but gladly eat Spiders.

Every body knows almost how to take a Robin with some Lime-Twigs, but with a Trap-Cage and Meal-Worm you may take a great many; and if you hear one Bird to excel another, take the Bird you have most mind to and Cage him, and he'll sing in a short Time, provided he be not an old Bird. If you take a Bird and do not hear him sing, by this Mark you shall know whether he be a Cock or Hen; if a Cock, his Breast will be of a brighter Red than the Hen, and his Red will go farther upon the Head.

What Diseases Robin-Red-Breasts are subject to, and how to cure them.

FIRST, he is very subject to the Cramp, and Giddiness of the Head, which makes him many Times fall off the Perch upon his Back, and then it is present Death, without some Help be speedily used for him. The best Remedy to prevent him from having the Cramp, is to keep him warm and clean in his Cage, that his Feet be not clogg'd, which many Times do eat of the Joints of his Feet, for the Dung being bound on so fast, it makes his Feet and Nails to rot off, which takes off the Life and Spirit of the Bird; if you find him droop,

droop, and is sickish, give him three or four Meal-Worms or Spiders, which will mightily refresh him; but for the Giddiness in the Head, give him six or seven Ear-wigs in a Week, and he will never be troubled with it, which is very subject to your Robins above all others, except the Bullfinch. If you find he has little Appetite to eat, give him now and then six or seven Hog-Lice, which you may find in any piece of old rotten Wood; be sure he never wants Water that is fresh, two or three Times a Week; and to make him chearful and long winded, give him once in a Week; in his Water, a blade or two of Saffron, and a slice of Stick Liquorice, which will advantage his Song or Whistling very much. This Bird is a very fine Bird, I have known them learn to Whistle, Speak or Pipe.

The Wren.

HE is the smallest of Birds, but he has a very loud Song, and fine withal; he commonly sits and sings upon the Edge of a Barn, or in a Tree, near Cow-Houses; he must have a large Cage made with very close Wier; he ought to have one Side of the Cage made like unto a Squirrel-House, and have it lin'd with Coney-Wool, Dog-Skin, or any Thing that is warm: These
Birds

Birds breed about the beginning of *May*, they make their Nests of green Moss, in the likeness of a high Crown'd Hat, and line it with some small Hair or Wool, and Moss at the Out-side ; they make a round Hole in the Side to creep in. I have known fifteen or sixteen Eggs in the Nest, and to my Knowledge I never took above seven or eight young Ones out of the Nest. If you have a mind to raise them, let them be very well feather'd, and feed them with Nightingale's Victuals, which is the properest and the best Food, only give them theirs smaller, because they are a less Bird. I have known them kept two or three Years in a Cage, and Sing as stout as if they were in the Fields ; if you find them out of order, give them an Ear-wigg, small Spider or Flies.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

I Will not be too curious about it ; choose the Bird with the largest Eye, for they are like other Birds, if you keep them some Time the Cocks will record ; this is all that I shall speak concerning the Wren, only feed them with Nightingales Food, and he'll answer your Expectation, and sing a great many Months in the Year.

*The large Tom Tit, by some called
Joe Bent.*

THEY commonly frequent about your Farmers Yards, Cow-Houses or Orchards, they are a hardy Bird, and you may bring them up with any Thing. I have fed them with Bread and Milk, or Bread and Cheese, and when grown up larger with Hemp-Seed ; they'll make a round whole in the Hemp-Seed and take out the Kernel and leave the Shell whole ; they are a pleasing Bird and have a pretty sort of a Song, and in my Opinion the best Victuals for them is Wood-Lark's Victuals ; you may catch them with a Lime-wig as you do a Robbin.

The Red-Start.

THEY commonly frequent the same Places as the Wren, and is a very beautiful Bird ; the Hen is almost the Colour of a Nightingale, the Cock has a black Head with a Star upon his Pole, and a red Tail ; he looks very handsome and beautiful, has a fine melodious Song, and doubles his Notes very fine : I need not to be too curious about this Bird, he must be brought up and fed with the same Victuals as a Night-

Nightingale, and then he'll answer his keeping.

The Black-Bird.

HE is a very hardy Bird, and for the Building and Breeding any Country Boy knows how it is ; they breed very soon in the Year, at the latter End of *March* have had young Ones ; you may take them at ten or twelve Days old ; in the Country they commonly feed them with Cheese-Curd or white Bread and Milk ; my Way of feeding them is, with Sheep's or Ox's Heart or any other sort of lean Meat, cut very small and mix'd up with a little Bread while they are young you must make the Victuals moist, and feed them once in twelve Hours ; you must be sure to keep them very clean, and take their Dung away every Time you feed them, if you find their Nest grows dirty, take them out and put them in clean Straw ; this Bird is like all others if he is kept nasty, he seldom answers the End, you must part them as soon as you can ; when they are grown up you may feed them with any Thing of Flesh Meat boiled raw or roasted ; you may likewise bring them up to Wood Lark's Victuals, but I think Flesh Meat, mix'd with a little Bread is best : This Bird is a stout strong Bird

and has a very pleasing Note of his own, you may learn them either to Whistle, or play a Tune to a Pipe, which I have heard some do very fine ; he'll Whistle about four or five Months in a Year, and is very delightful and pleasing to his Keeper, if well learn'd ; he is a very hardy Bird, but if you find him out of order, give him a large Spider, or some Wood-Lice, which you find in old Wood ; you may likewise put a little Cochineal in his Water, which is very cheerful and good ; you may give him two or three Spiders in a Day, and likewise five or six Hog-Lice, but if you give him two many in one Day, it will take him off of other Food, and do him more harm than good.

To know the Cock from the Hen.

SOME say, the uppermost Bird in the Nest is a Cock, others say, the Nestling is a Cock ; some choose them by their Wings, others by their Heads or full Eye, but I find all this groundless ; In my Opinion, take the blackest Bird in the Nest, which, when you see them altogether, you may easily perceive the Difference, for the Cock will be considerably blacker than the Hen.

There are two Sorts of Black Birds, a black Sort, and a grey Sort, the Hen of the black

black Sort, is commonly as black as the
Cock of the grey Sort ; however, be
which Sort it will, the Cocks be blacker
than the Hens, but the blackest Sort I take
to be the best, and Whistle the longest in
the Year.

*The Thrush, in some Countries called the
Throstle.*

THERE are three or four Sorts, the
first is a red Wing, the next is what
is generally called a Song-Thrush, and
builds in Woods or Orchards ; another is
the small blacker Sort, and builds upon the
Heaths or Commons ; the next is the great
large Thrush, called a Measle-Taw : He is
very large and handsome, but better for a
Spit than for a Song. A Wood Song
Thrush is a very fine Bird, and Sings nine
or ten Months in the Year, he builds with
Moss on the outside, and commonly Clay
or Cow-Dung the inside ; the Heath Thrush
is much of the same Nature, only builds
his Nest in the Furzes, and in some Coun-
tries are called Wins. This Bird breeds
very soon in the Year, I have had young
Ones in *March* ; they are fed with the same
Food as a Black-Bird. This Bird is migh-
ty subject to the Cramp, especially if he
be kept dirty. I have had those that could

not

not stand for a Fortnight, yet with great
 care I have brought them to be fine Birds.
 When I find them cramped, I put Fern in
 the Bottom of their Cage, and feed them as
 they lie, and turn up the Fern as often as
 they are fed ; if you cannot get Fern, put
 clean Straw at the Bottom, and so keeping
 them clean, they will soon come to their
 eggs ; if you find them cramped, feed them
 with bitter Victuals, as Nightingale's Vic-
 tuals, Sheep's Heart and Egg chopped ve-
 ry small. I cannot give an Account how
 to know a Cock Thrush from a Hen, only
 as soon as they begin to feed themselves,
 they begin to record, both Cocks and Hens ;
 the Cock will get upon his Perch, and sing
 his Notes low for some Time, the Hen will
 do it only by Jerks, and make you believe
 they will sing, but to no Purpose. If you
 are not satisfied which are the Cocks, keep
 them till after Moulting, which is about
 Bartholomew-Tide, for as soon as they have
 done Moulting, the Cocks will break out
 strong in Song. I have had them sing
 as like an old Bird, a Fortnight or three
 Weeks before *Michaelmas* ; they will sing
 with you in Winter as well as Summer.
 They have very pleasing Notes, and a good
 song. I have known them learn the Night-
 gale's or Wood-Lark's Song, and divers
 others. Of these several Sorts of Thrushes,

in my Opinion the Heath-Thrush is the best, and comes nearest to the Song of a Nightingale, and if they are sick, use them in the same Manner as I told you by the Black-Bird.

The Sterling.

HE has but a very ordinary Song of his own, but may be taught to Whistle, or to Pipe or Talk. I have heard them talk as well as a Parrot, and Pipe to several Tunes. This Bird builds in Trees or Pidgeon-Houses, or in the Sides of Dwelling-Houses; some say a Tree-Sterling is best, and others a House-Sterling is best, also others, that a Sterling that breeds in a Pidgeon-House is best. In my Opinion they are equally good, provided they are brought up young. If you would have very good ones, take them about double Pen-feathered, that is, about ten Days old, put them in a Basket in some clean Straw, and keep them clean and warm; talk to them what you would have them learn, every Time you feed them. I have had them begin to talk as soon as they fed themselves, or rather before. You must feed them with Ox's-Heart, or Sheep's-Heart, as I told you by the Black-Bird. You must feed them once in two Hours, and give them five or six Pieces

a Time, as big as a Horse-Bean, and when they come to feed themselves, you may bring them up to Wood-Lark's Meat, and give them a little Flesh-Meat twice or three Times a Week.

Some are of Opinion that they may learn best in a dark Cage, but I have known them learn either in a dark or open Cage: Some will tell you, That you must cut their Tongue, but there is nothing at all in it, for I have heard more talk that have not been cut, than them that have.

This is a very pleasing Bird, and hardy, yet I have had some of them troubled with Fits, that they have tumbled down and beat themselves about the Cages, and if I had not got them out, they would have beat themselves to Pieces. The best thing to prevent this, is to give them now and then a Spider or Meal-Worm, and to put a little Saffron in their Water.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

OPEN his Mouth, and look under the Tongue, and you will find a black Stroak, which you may perceive quite thro' it be a Cock, and the Hen has little or none; when they come to Moulte, the Cock loses that black Stroak: The Feathers when moulted off of the Breast of the Cock, is very

very beautiful, and hath several fine Colours, which the Hen hath not.

This Bird, if well taught, is of great Value, I have known them sold for five or six Guineas a-piece.

The Sparrow.

THIS Bird is very plentiful, and very well known by every little Boy, by reason of their building in the Sides of Houses and Bird-Bottles. This Bird may be brought up very tame and familiar. I have heard them sing part of the Canary Birds and Linet's Note; you may bring them up with any Thing, Bread and Water, Bread and Milk, or Flesh-Meat; when you have brought them up, feed them with Hemp and Canary-Seed. If you find them out of order, give them whole Oatmeal among it. This is all that you need feed them with, then they will dung hard and fine as a Linnet or any other Seed-Bird, they are very hardy Birds, and easy to be brought up: If you would have them to learn under any other Bird, take them out of the Nest at double Pen-Feather. I have known a Sparrow whistle good part of a Tune, and sit upon a Man's Finger, being of such a tame Nature.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

WHEN you take them, look under the Throat, down to the Breast, and you will perceive some to be blacker than others, those that are blackest are the Cocks. When they have Moulded off, every body knows the Cocks by their Black Breasts.

The Linnet.

THIS Bird is a very fine one, and apt to learn either to Pipe or Whistle, or any other Bird's Note. I have heard of their learning to speak.

These Birds build upon Heaths or Commons, or in Pasture Ground; they also build among Furzes. I have known a Nest taken in Broom, or in white Thorn, in a Hedge; they commonly breed in April, and have young Ones fit to take about the latter End; they have commonly four or five young Ones, and likewise three or four Nests in the Year; you may take them about eight, nine or ten Days old, if you would have them to learn. They are a very fine Bird for learning their Song of a Wood-Lark. I have heard them sing so true, that I could not tell which was the Wood-Lark or Linnet; they likewise take

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the Canary-Bird, or any other Bird's-Song.

There is your sweet Song Linnet, which I have known sold for three or four Guineas a Bird ; the first Original was taken from the Skie-Lark and Tit-Lark, and several other Birds.

How to feed them.

THEY are fed with several Sorts of Food, my Way of Feeding them is with a little White Bread soaked in Spring-Water, or any other Water ; and when you have done, strain it out of the Water, and boil it up with a little Milk, to make it very stiff, like unto a Hasty-Pudding. If you have a small Quantity of Birds, you may have but little, because it sours in two Days Time, and sooner if you put Seed in. I generally put Seed in, as much as will serve about half a Day ; take a little Rape-Seed and soak it in Water about ten or twelve Hours, then scald it or boil it up ; then strain your Water from it, and take a little and squeeze it with a Knife upon a Trencher, or with a Glass-Bottle upon the Table, then take a little and mix it among the Bread and Milk ; feed them once in two Hours, from six in the Morning till eight a Clock at Night. When they come to feed themselves, give them a little of the scalded Rape-Seed ; when they have fed themselves

about

about a Week, you may give them a little of the Wood-Larks Victuals, by reason too much soft Victuals will make them rotten ; the sooner you can break them of Bread and Milk the better ; nevertheless, you may give them some Wood-Lark's Meat, or some other soft Victuals, till they are able to crack their Seed, which I look upon to be at six or seven Weeks old, before which time they are not able to live upon hard seed.

How to know a Cock from a Hen.

WHEN you have the Nest together, you may observe them that look the brownest upon the Backs, and likewise if you open their Wings, you will find the second; third, or fourth Feather white up to the Quill ; those Birds that are so brown of the Back, and shew quite white up to their Quill, never fail of being Cocks. Your Hens have a little cast of white, and likewise a little brownish upon their Backs, but nothing like unto a Cock, for which Reason if you see the Nest together, and observe them well, you will see the Difference better than I can describe to you, that is, by the white Feathers in the Wing, and the Brownness of the Back.

How to catch Branchers.

YOU may go to their Breeding Places, or somewhere near them, where you can find a Piece of Turnip-Seed, or a Bank of wild Rape-Seed, or a Place where the old Ones brings them to Water; there you may lay your Clap-Nets, and catch both old and young, but young especially, which are best, if you have good Song-Birds to bring them up.

When you have taken them, put them in a Store-Cage fit for that Purpose, and take some of the Seed which you find them to feed upon, and put into the Cage, likewise a little fine Hemp-Seed ground or bruised; set them in a Window, or Place convenient, where they are not disturbed, feeding them with this Victuals for three or four Days, then Cage them up, either in Back-Cages, or any other Cages, which you have most convenient; feed them with Rape, and a small Matter of Canary-Seed amongst it, with some few Corns of Hemp. This is all to feed the Nestling, Brancher, or Linnet, if well; if not, you may give them a little Lettice-Seed, or beat Leaf; you may likewise put them a small Matter of Liquorice or Saffron in the Water. You may give them a small Matter of seeded Chickweed now and then; if you find them troubled

troubled with a Looseness, give them a little Chalk, and a little bruised Hemp-Seed, with now and then a Stalk of Plantane-Seed. I could mention several other Things concerning a Linnet, but this is the best and readiest Way that I am acquainted with. I have taken Observations of it this twenty four Years.

How to Stop a Linnet, or any other Bird, and make them Sing, after they have Moulded off.

THE Stopping of a Bird is of great use to the Bird Catchers, and likewise such as would have them learn a sweet Song, you must let your Bird before you stop him, be a Year old or better, and keep him in a Back Cage, so that he may be able to find his Victuals in the dark ; you may put him in a Stop about the middle of *May*. The Nature of a Stop is, to have a Case made fit for the purpose, then put in your Birds and leave the Door open till you are satisfied they have found their Meat and Water, then darken them by degrees till they are quite dark, and when you see they have found their Meat and Water there, cover them with a Blanket or any thick Cloth that is warm, keeping them very hot ; you must look at them, once in two or three Days, give them fresh Water, and blow
C 3 their

their Seeds : I don't clean their Cages above once a Month, by reason the Hotness of their Dung, forces them to Moulte. I take a bit of Stick or Knife, to keep their Dung down, to prevent dirtying their Feathers, and so let them continue in this close Stop for three Months, by which Time they will be moulted off, then I open them a little and a little by degrees ; I take off the Blanker first, and let them stand so three or four Days, then open the Door a little way and take them out and clean their Cages, and put them in again with the Door half open for two or three Days longer, then take them out and put them in a warm Place, so that they come to the Air by degrees ; put them a little beat Leaf and Liquorice in the Water, this with a Blade of Saffron, which is a very good Thing, when he is drawn off a Stop. After you have drawn them out of a Stop, you'll find them to Sing still more and more, so that they'll be for the Bird-Catcher's use, or to learn any other Birds their Songs ; those Birds will continue in Song 'till about *Christmas*, or after, by which Time most young Birds are come to their Song.

These Bird-Branchers are very plentiful to be catch'd in *June*, *July* or *August*, and likewise Flight-Birds about *Michaelmas* in great Quantities ; I have known forty or fifty Dozen catch'd in one Day with Clap-Nets.

The Goldfinch.

HE commonly builds in Orchards or Hedges, makes a very pretty Nest, and lines it with very fine Down or Wooll: He breeds in *April*, and has three or four Nests in a Summer; if brought up from their Nest they'll take their Song from a Wood-Lark or Canary Bird, or from any other Bird; they are likewise a very fine Bird to draw their Water, and open their Box for their Victuals, if you bring them up from their Nest, you may feed them with white Bread and Milk, according to the Nature of a Linnet, only I grind a little Canary-Seed, and put the Flower of it in the room of Rape-Seed, feeding them a little, once in an Hour or two, three or four Bits at a Time, for their Stomachs won't bear a great deal, they being very tender Birds; you may likewise mix them, now and then, a little Naple Biskets among it, keeping them with this sort of Victuals 'till they are five or six Weeks old, then you may give them a little Canary-Seed, and a little soft Meat besides, breaking them off, of soft Meat as soon as you can, and bring them to Canary alone, which I look upon the best Food for this Bird; some feed them with Hemp-Seed, but in my Mind it makes

them rotten, and decays their Colours very much ; if you feed them with Canary they are a very beautiful Bird, and I think the finest feathered Bird we keep in Cages. This Bird is a very merry Bird, and has a pleasant Song of his own, and if they were not so very plenty, they would be as much admired as a Canary Bird ; I have sent them over Sea, by Captains and Merchants, to the *Canaries*, and several other Countries, where they are as much admired as we do Canary Birds in *England*.

This Bird is to be catch'd several Ways, and at several Times in the Year, they being of such a tame and familiar Nature, that they'll sing in a Fortnight's Time, catch them what Time in the Year you will ; you may catch young Ones, which we call grey Pates, in *June*, *July*, and *August*, but I look upon the best Time for catching them, is at *Michaelmas* ; you catch them with Clap-Nets as you do Linnets, and you may find them in great Flocks in thistelly Fields, for they feed upon the Seed which is in the Thistle and Tontells ; this is the Food they feed upon most part of the Winter ; they are a tender Bird in the Summer, but hardy if catch'd in the Winter, and will sing presently ; they are great Lovers of Hemp-Seed, and when they are first catch'd they commonly feed them with it, but I break them

off it, and bring them to Canary-Seed as soon as I can; they'll sing very stout with Hemp-Seed, but seldom live very long, or Moulte well with it; if you bring them up to Canary-Seed, they are a pretty Bird, and will answer your Expectation.

How to Cure them when Sick.

IF they are Sick, give them a little Groundsel every Day, and a Blade of Saffron in their Water; if they are lose give them a little Chalk, either stick it in the Side of the Cage, or crumble it in the Bottom; likewise give them always red Sand or Gravel in the Bottom of the Cage, for the Seeds being Oily, this qualifies and takes the Oil off their Stomachs; you may likewise give them a little Lettice-Seed, or a little Thistle-Seed, which you may find in the great Thistle, at the Bottom of a white Down.

To know the Cock from the Hen.

YOU may know them either old or young by the blackness of their Wings, the edge of the Cock's Wing being black up to the Shoulder, and of a very good shining Black; they are likewise black over the Bill, and under it red; they have likewise a brighter Yellow and brighter Red, and in all Parts of a brighter Colour than

the Hen ; the Hen shews a little Black in the Wing, but Grey to a Cock, they are likewise grey over the Bill where the Cock is black : This is the best Account I can give you to know a Cock Goldfinch. You may stop these Birds as you do Linnets.

The Bullfinch.

THIS is a very fine Bird both for Beauty and taking any Song, having but a very indifferent one of his own. You may learn him to Pipe several Tunes at Command, likewise to Whistle by the Mouth ; you may learn him to speak likewise. I have had some both whistle and speak several Words at Command ; and the Rarity of these Birds is, when you have learned them they never forget what they have learned, if you hang them among ever so many Birds. I have known them sold for eight, nine, or ten Guineas a Bird ; I myself have sold one for seven Guineas.

To find their Nests.

THESE Birds have no young Ones before the latter End of May, or Beginning of June ; they commonly build in an Orchard or Wood, or in a Park, where are a great many Trees ; they make but a very indifferent Nest, yet they have young Ones

Ones two or three Times in a Summer, and have four or five young Ones at a Time; they are not very plenty in *England*, because they frequent Orchards, and do great Damage to the Buds of the Trees, which makes the Gardeners shoot as many as they can, otherwise they destroy their Wall-Fruit. There is in some Parts of this Kingdom, two Pence given by the Church-Wardens for every Bullfinch that is killed, which I take to be the Reason of their Scarcity. In some Countries they call them Nopes, and in other Countries, Thick Bills; and in other Countries they call them Hoops. This I take to be from their own Notes, because naturally they have a hooping sort of a Note; at *London* we call them Bullfinches, by Reason they have a thick, black Head, and a stubbed short Bill; the Cock has a very red Breast.

How to Feed them.

YOU may feed them and bring them up, the same Way as you do a Linnet, only when they feed themselves, give them more Canary-Seed than a Linnet. I generally give them the better half Canary-Seed, and the rest Rape; and if you find them out of order, give them a little fine Hemp-Seed, and a little Saffron in their Water; you may likewise give them a little

the Wood-Lark's Victuals, the same as you do a Linnet. You may take them when about twelve or fourteen Days old ; when you have kept them three, four or five Days, or a Week, you may begin to Pipe, Whistle, or Talk to them what you have a Mind they should learn ; they are Birds that take it pretty soon. I know a Gentleman that Piped to one from a Fortnight old to six Weeks, and then being obliged to leave his Bird and go into the Country, he staid there for six Months, and when he came Home again, his Bird whistled near three Parts of the Tune, notwithstanding he had no Body to Pipe or Tune to him in his Absence.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

THERE are several Opinions, some say by the Whiteness of their Rump, others, by the Blueness of their Back, and others by a cast of reddish Feathers under the Wings. The best Way that I could find, was to pull about half a Dozen Feathers off of their Breast when they are about three Weeks old ; then in about ten or twelve Days after, you will perceive the Feathers to come where you have pulled, as red as Blood, if a Cock, if a Hen, they will come of a paleish brown, tho' I have known both to whistle and speak, yet a Cock is far more beautiful, and better found

Learning

Learning. This Bird in my Opinion, is the best Bird for Learning, and keeping of when he has it, as we have in *England*.

The Chaffinch.

HE is a very stout Bird, and very lavish in his Song, but is like other Birds, great deal different in his Song; the *Essex* are the best; I have known brought some up and sold for a Guinea and a half, and two Guinea's a Bird; they commonly learn them a Song which is called *Whitford Tune*, and *Chopping Lim*, they are commonly brought up under other Birds called, *Sweet Song Chaffinch*. The wild Ones don't sing above three Months in the Year, but them that are brought up Nestlings, or Branchers, will sing six or seven Months in the Year, but they commonly Blind them; if you'll have them learn a Song, it is the best Way to keep them in a little Back Cage, and about three Months old they generally Blind them. The nature of Blinding them is thus, to keep them Dark, and when they have been the Week in Darkness, and find their Victuals and Water very well, we either take the Wier of the Cage, or a piece of Wier for that purpose, and put it in the Fire, 'till it is almost red hot, and so take him in your Hand, and close his Eyes up with it; put him either

ther in Darkness, or in some private Place for if he finds the Air comes to his Eyes he'll rub them open, and then he'll be good for nothing; so the best Way is, to keep him in a close Box, and to Cover him, that no Air comes to him for a Fortnight by this Time you'll find that his Eyes will be scabb'd over, and almost well, in which Time, if you find him to rub his Eyes, pick him up again for two or three Days longer for if they rub their Eyes open, they are frightful to look at, and good for nothing.

If you have a Mind to bring them up from the Nest, they breed almost in every Hedge, and have young Ones at the beginning of *May*; they breed twice or thrice Times in the Year, you may take them about ten or twelve Days old, and feed them as you do a Linnet: I need not be too tedious in Feeding of this Bird, because the same Food that feeds the Linnet, feeds the Chaffinch: They are a very hardy Bird and if you would have them Branchers you must take them in *June* or *July*; you may take them at a watering Place, where they come to Water, or in a broad Lane, and may take them with Clap-Nets as you do Linnets.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

IF you have a Nest, take the Bird that is the highest Colour, and the brightest White in his Wing, likewise the brownest the Back ; if you are curious to know the Cock, as soon as they feed themselves, pull five or six Feathers off their Breasts, and if they be Cocks, in ten or twelve Days time, they'll come out red, if Hens they'll come much the same Colour as they were before ; likewise if you have Branchers, and don't know the Cocks from the Hens, you may do the same, for all Cocks are of a Purple Red on the Breast, and the Hens Grey.

The Green-Bird.

WHICH in several Countries is call'd the Greenfinch or Green-Linnet, is a very strong hardy Bird, and fitter for the pit than for Singing ; he is a very fine Bird to ring the Bells in the Cage : If you bring him up from the Nest he'll learn either to Whistle or Pipe, or sing any Birds Song ; you may feed him with the same Victuals as you do a Linnet or Chaffinch, and if Sick, the same Victuals that cures a Linnet will cure him. You may catch him with Clap-Nets, as you do Linnets and other Birds,

Birds, and is to be catch'd in great Quantities, about *Michaelmas*, in the common Fields.

The Aberdevine.

THIS is a very pretty merry Bird, and is much the Colour and Bigness of a grey Canary-Bird, they don't breed in these Parts, nor can I give you any Account where they breed, but I believe they come from the North, being commonly catch'd here in the Winter; they frequent here the Alder Trees by the River-side, and are to be catch'd as we do Linnets or Goldfinches, they feed upon the same Seed as the Chaffinches or Linnets, but they love the white Seed; they are a merry Bird, and the Colour of a Canary-Bird, only the Cock has a black Spot upon his Head, and a little Black under his Throat.

The Twite.

THIS is a very merry Bird, and fit to be kept among Linnets, or Goldfinches, or any other small Birds; they are continually Singing, and provoke others to sing; you may feed them as you do Chaffinches and Linnets, only they love the Canary-Seed. This is a very pleasing Bird

and is catch'd as you do Linnets or Chaffinches.

The Cock hath a red Spot just upon his Rump, and the Hen hath none.

The Red-Pole.

THIS is a pretty little Bird, the Cock hath a very red Breast, and a red Head, he sings a pretty Sort of chattering Song, but in my Opinion, hardly worth keeping. They are fed with the same Food as a Chaffinch or a Linnet. In my Opinion, there is none of the three last mentioned Birds that breeds in *England*, for they come from the North against Winter, and return back in the Spring: Some say they breed in *France*, and call them the *French* Linnet, but I believe they breed in *Scotland*, those North Parts, by Reason of their coming here against cold Weather.

HAVING now given an Account at large of the *Nature, Songs, and Manner of Catching, Feeding, and Breeding of English BIRDS*, I shall proceed to give you a brief Account how to order Foreign Ones, according to the best of my knowledge and Experience, which has been near Forty Years.

The Canary-Bird.

THESE Birds we formerly had brought from the *Canaries*, and no where else and is generally known by that Name, but we have Abundance of that Kind come from *Germany*, so we call them by the Name of the Country *German Birds*, but I believe their first Original were brought from the *Canary-Islands*. The Birds brought from the *Canaries*, are not so much in Esteem with us as formerly, for those brought from *Germany* and *France*, far exceed them in Handsomeness and Song, the *German Birds* having many fine Jerks and Notes of the *Nightingale* and *Tit-Lark*, which in its Place I shall declare how they came to have. Many Country People cannot distinguish a *Canary-Bird* from one of our common *Green-Birds*, but if they would diligently observe how the Passage of his Throat heaves when he is Singing, they might quickly distinguish him from any other Bird, let him be of any Manner of Colour besides, he is freer of Nature, and hath a longer Tail than most Birds of his Size. The Nature of the *Canary-Bird* is quite contrary to all others, for as other Birds are subject to be Fat, they never are (I mean the *Cocks* when in Song) for the great Manner

of the Bird, and his lavish Singing, will hardly suffer him to keep Flesh upon his Back.

How to chuse a Canary-Bird, and to know whether he hath a good Song, likewise whether a Cock or Hen.

AS to the Colour, I shall say least, that depending entirely on the Fancy of those who buy them, only, for the Instruction of my Reader, I shall mention some of the Terms us'd by Canary-Bird Fanciers, viz. *French*, so called from the Breed of France, that a few Years ago were brought from *France*, but since much improved in the Colour by our Breeders at Home; the best Sort are of a beautiful bright Yellow, spangled with an Intermixture of jet black spots, having little or no white about them. The next is the mealy Bird, so called from the mealy Kind of Colour which seems to cover all his Feathers, so that he has no other Colours perfect, being covered with that mealy Cast, tho' often in Breeding they grow as fine a Feather to their young Ones as the best.

The next are your mottled Ones, being mostly white, mottled here and there with black or brownish Spots; some are all White, some all Yellow; some the Colour of Buff; some of an ash Colour, and some grey; these

these last are the most contemptible for the Colour, but yet are generally as good Nature as any ; but as I said before, the Choice of Colours only depends on the Person who is to be the Buyer.

To chuse a Bird in Health.

IN the first Place, Let him be a young sprightly Bird, and strait, standing with Vigour, like a Sparrow-Hawk, not subject to be fearful, but after flinging himself two or three Times from the Perch to the Top of the Cage, he will shake himself, and undauntedly strut, as if void of all Fear, and appear vigorous, sleek and strait : But observe this well, set the Bird at a convenient Distance from you, that this may not wholly be the Effects of Fear, for a Bird that is a little Sick will do what is above mentioned, and appear sleek and trim during the Time of his Surprise, and while you stand too near his Cage, and by the Craft of the Person who would sell a sick Bird by this many may be deceived, for by the flurting at the Cage with their Hand, as pointing at the Bird to show the Beauty of him, he will stand strait, draw up his Feathers sleek, and appear as I have before mentioned, and so deceive the Buyer ; but by hanging him up, or setting him at some Distance from you, if he is not well, he will

presently shew it, by crowching down, hang-
 ing his Wings, appearing all of a Heap, and
 very rough in his Feathers, and putting his
 head under his Wing (all these are bad
 signs, and denote the Bird unhealthy).
 There is another Way to know if a Bird
 is in Health, and that is by his Dung,
 when he is taken out of the Store-Cage, ob-
 serve well if the Bottom of the Cage he is
 in be clean; then take notice of the
 dung, and the Manner of his dunging, for
 when he bolts his Tail afterwards, like the
 Nightingale, it is a Sign he is not in per-
 fect Health, altho' he may sing for the pre-
 sent; but if he does not, and his Dung ap-
 pears thick, hard and round, being of a fine
 white on the outside, and darkish in the
 middle, and quickly dry, then it is a very
 good Sign, for a Seed-Bird seldom dungs
 so hard, unless he be very young.
 Now I will shew you the bad Symptoms
 of this Bird's Dunging: First of all, his
 bolting his Tail like the Nightingale, as I
 have before observed: The next is, if he dung
 thin, like Water, with no Thickening in it,
 that is a bad Sign: And last of all, if he
 dungs only a slimy Whiteness, with no black
 in it, it is a very dangerous Sign that Death
 is approaching, and that he will not conti-
 nue long with you.

To chuse a Bird for Song.

IF you hear him Sing before you buy him, then you are sure you have not bought a Hen for a Cock. As to the Song, I count it good, when it is begun something like the Skie-Lark, then running on the Notes of the Nightingale, which he begins well, and holds it long, nothing in my Mind can be Sweeter; but as the Fancies of Men are as different as either the Colours or Songs of the Birds, so their Eyes and Ears are the best Judges for their Fancies, yet I shall not fail to give my Opinion and Judgment to those who have not had Experience in this delightful and innocent Amusement.

The next Observation is, A Bird that begins with the Sweet of the Nightingale gradually four or five Times falling into several other swelling Notes of the above mentioned Bird, and ending with the Song of the Tit-Lark: I say, a Bird that has a sufficient Share of each of these Bird's Songs, is both harmonious, sprightly, and very delightful to the Ear.

These Notes are distinguished in their Manner, *viz.* the Sweet Jug, followed by a Swelling Slur, with the Water-Bubble, and then the sprightly Song of the Tit-Lark, and then chewing and whisking several Times in

Breat

breath ; a Bird that will go sweetly thro' his Song in this Manner, without breaking off, may be said to be a good Song-Bird. The Terms of *Whisking* and *Chewing*, are, near as we can express his pretty Notes with our Words, what you will hear him more perfectly express in his own delightful language, as well as the *Sweet* and *Jug*, which almost every Body knows are some of the Nightingale's Notes.

Again, Some Fanciers are pleased when a Canary-Bird only sings the Song of the Field-Lark, which is indeed very pleasant and delightful.

Others only fancy that Bird which begins with the Skie-Lark, and holds his Song all the while in the same Manner, having long Notes and sweet, but I think not much Variety in it.

Some there be likewise, who like a Bird that hath a loud lavish Note, not at all respecting either Variety or Length, so that it makes but Noise enough in their Ears.

If these Instructions may not at first truly satisfy a Person, let this serve in general, that they chuse what is most agreeable to their own Ear, and that holds the Song the longest, without breaking off short, without harsh scraping Notes, or disagreeable Lamenting, which some Birds have at the Beginning.

Beginning and Middle of their Song, which is very ungrateful to the Ear.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

THE first and most certain Method is the Bird's Song, which is a never failing Argument if they hear him Sing that he is a Cock, for the Hens never Sing altho' some have, by a Sort of jabbering Noise, which some do make better than others, deceived not only unskilled Persons but those who have thought themselves compleat Fanciers, as I shall hereafter give a pleasant Instance. The Way then to distinguish between the Cock's Song, and the Hen's jabbering is, that the Cock, let him sing never so indifferent, almost every Time he strikes a Note, you may easily perceive the Passage of his Throat to heave, with pulsive Motion, swelling like a little Pair of Bellows all the Time he is warbling of his pretty Notes, which never happens to a Hen, for let her make what Noise she will and resemble singing never so well, the Motion is never observed in her Throat it is in the Cock's.

The next Observation is, the Largeness of Vigour, and majestick Carriage of the Cock, which he generally shews if in Health by extending his Neck and Head, as if

would

would endeavour to be something more than himself, like too many Mortals in the World ; and as the Cock is the longest and largest Bird, so with this sort of Carriage it makes the Difference much greater, for the Hen is not only smaller and shorter every Way, especially from the Legs to the Vent, which seems to come down from the Legs, under the Belly, to the Vent, shorter, and as it were, of a more sudden Roundness, which happens from her being by Nature in that Part larger, for containing and laying her Eggs ; whereas the Cock appears in that Part more slim and longer, coming down from his Legs to his Vent gradually taper, ending in a small Point under his Tail.

Another Thing is to be observed, If you Blow the Cock and Hen, you may perceive his Vent appear longer than that of the Hen's, and the Orifices not all together so wide.

The next and last Observation is from the Colour above the Bill of the Cock, which is a more bright Yellow, as likewise under his Throat, and on the Pinion of the Wing ; for let the Birds be of what Colours they will, they always have a little Yellow almost upon their Bills, and under their Throats, and a stroke over the Eyes, which in the Cocks is a bright strong Yel-

low, but in the Hens it is more languid and pale.

The Story I promised to relate was thus :

FOR want of a due Observation of the above-mentioned Rules, one who counted himself a compleat Judge, put two Hens together to breed, and would not be convinced by all the Arguments which were used to perswade him to the contrary, by some, who always made these Observations, the proper Maxim of Distinction between the Cock and Hen, till at last his supposed Cock had laid more Eggs than his Sister Hen, which made him acknowledge his Obstinacy, and own himself a Subject for Laughter.

Concerning the Canary-Birds when they begin to Build, or those you intend for Breeding.

THESE Birds breed four or five Times in a Year, and commonly lay four, five, or six Eggs at a Time, I have known seven, but that I think too many; the most young Ones I ever did know brought up at a Time in one Nest was six, they set fourteen Days including the Day you set them, they that are minded to breed and

and not be disappointed, let them breed with *English* bred Birds; particularly those of the *French* Kind which breed best of all, if your Birds be both Yellow match'd together, they must be stout, otherwise they will breed very small, but if your Cock or Hen be Yellow and small, then match it with a large mealy one, which will strengthen the breed, I would advise you not to match your Birds till the middle of *March*, and turn them up the latter End which is Time enough, let your Places be fitted up as is hereafter described; In the first Place, You must have a convenient Cage, or else prepare a Room which will be convenient for that Purpose. If it be convenient, let it be towards the Sun-rising, because the Birds love Warmness and the Sun-shine in the Room in the Morning, makes the Room warm all the Day. You may make an Outlet in the Window towards the Sun-rising, where they may go out and have a little Air when they please. I would not advise you to overstock the Room; some Rooms that are pretty large, you may turn in ten or twelve Pair, according as your Room is in Bigness. You must make your Room after this Manner, Throw red Sand or Gravel at the Bottom, and if you please, you may set up a Tree in the Middle of the Room; you may likewise nail up Nest-

Boxes and Back-Cages in every Corner of the Room, for some of the Birds love to breed pretty dark, and others pretty light ; you must be sure to put up as many more Boxes and Cages as you have Pairs, for they love to have Choice, and yet they are apt to go to Nest again before the first fly. If there is not Conveniency, they are apt to make their Nest upon the young Ones. I have lost a Nest of two or three young Ones upon that very Account ; when I went to look for Birds, I saw none but the Nest made in the same Box, which made me wonder what was become of my Birds, and pulling out the Nest, I found them all smothered under it ; they will likewise build in the Tree which is in your Room, and if you do not tie it in several Places, the Nest, the Eggs and young Ones will be apt to fall thro'. I have lost many Birds after this Manner, but in my Opinion, any Man that breeds them for his Pleasure, it is the best Way to breed them in a Cage made for that Purpose, which ought to be as large again as what we call Breeding-Cages, so that they may have Room to fly, for the more Room the better. You must likewise have two Boxes to make their Nest in, for as I told you before, they are apt to go to Nest again, before the young Ones fly, and being two Boxes, the Hen will build in the

the other Box, and the Cock will feed the young Ones.

If you have a Mind to bring them up by Hand, feed them with the same Food as you do Linnets, and take them away at twelve or fourteen Days old ; for if you let them lie longer with the old Ones, they grow fullen, and will not feed ; but if you design to let the old Ones bring them up ; let them alone till the old Ones hatch again ; as soon as they have young Ones, I would have you take the former away, or else they will spoil the young Ones by pulling them out of their Nest, or picking them as they lie. I have lost by this Means several Nests of young Ones, but now I take them away, when I find them able enough to feed themselves. When you take them away, you must make their Victuals very good, boil an Egg hard, then take a little of the Yelk, likewise about as much of the best Bread, and also a little scalded Rape-Seed, about a third Part of the Rape-Seed as there is Bread. When it is boiled soft, you may grind it in a Mill, if you have but few Birds, you may take a Trencher, and bruise it with a Blade of a Knife, and make it very fine, for the finer the better ; you must likewise put a little Maw-Seed among it, and so mix it up altogether, and give them a Pan full of it every Day. You may like-

wife give them a little scalded Rape-Seed, and a little Rape and Canary-Seed by itself. This is the Food that I feed young Canary-Birds with, that are brought up by the old Ones; I commonly feed them with this Food till they have moulted off; take particular Care not to let the Rape-Seed be sowre, for if it be, it gives them the Looseness, and kills them. You must likewise make your soft Victuals fresh every Day, or every other Day at farthest, for I give them fresh every Day.

The next Thing is, what I should have told you before, that is, how to feed them and Pair them when you first Pair them for Breeding. I always put the Cock and Hen together in a small Cage, so that they may be Paired before I turn them into the Room or Cage where I design for their Breeding. I feed them very well with soft Meat, that is, Egg, Bread, Maw-Seed, and a little scalded Rape-Seed, hardly a third Part of Egg, and so mix it very well together, as I told you before, only I do not boil it for the old Ones, as I do for the young Ones, but grate the Bread and the Egg with the Grater, so mix it very well together, and the Rape-Seed I boil as I told you before for the young Ones. I hardly put one Part of Rape-Seed to the Quantity of Bread and Egg; before they have young Ones, give them

them Groundsel with Seeds on it, and afterwards Chickweed with Seeds upon it, towards *June* give them some Shepherds Puffs, and in *July* and *August* Plantain, for want of these Things you may supply them with a Cabbage Lettice; but this is not to be used for a Constancy, and be sure you don't fail of giving them fresh Greens and soft Victuals every Day when they have young Ones (especially in the Morning) for if they are neglected when young, 'twill be a hard Matter to raise them.

How to order them to make their Nest.

TO make their Nest, I give them Elk's-Hair and a little fine Hay; some give them some fine Feathers, for my Part, I give them nothing but a little fine Hay, and Elk's-Hair, for they will use the dry Chickweed, or any thing they find at the Bottom of the Cage, which if they do, and afterwards line it with Hair, it will do as well as the best.

Of the several Distempers incident to Canary-Birds, and how to Cure them.

Canary-Birds, as well as other Living Creatures, are subject to several Distempers, altho' there be some of so good and happy a Constitution, that they may be said to live out their Live-times without

any Diseases, and never droop 'till Age has worn-out Nature, which some have been known to live twenty-four Years. I have seen some myself of twenty-two Years old, but the Reader must imagine, such long-liv'd Birds must not only be of a healthy Constitution, but have a careful Keeper, which is a great Argument, that People would never lose so many Birds, were it not for want of proper Instructions, in which I hope this *Small Tract* will be of Service.

In the first place I shall take Notice of their Diseases; then of the Remedies proper to be used.

The first Malady which they are most incident to, is a Surfeit, from either their being fed by the old Ones, with too much Greens, or from their own over-gorging when they come to feed themselves on the same Food; especially that sort of Chickweed, which is very thick of Leaves, and is very rank and moist, having too many broad Leaves and no Seeds; this sort of Chickweed is very pernicious both to old and young, but more especially to the young Ones, to whom it is very apt to give the Distemper call'd the Surfeit, which causes them to swell very much under their Bellies, appearing as it were transparent, full of little red Veins, all their little Bowels sinking down to the extream Parts of their Bodies,

some-

sometimes turning black ; when it comes to this, it is then very dangerous ; besides other Remedies, they must be kept very warm : The same Distemper comes also by violent Colds, but is more easy to cure if taken in Time, and is call'd a Swelling, in the first degree only white, which if not prevented turns to a red, and as in the Surfeit, so in this ; it last of all turns to a black Swelling, which is very hard to cure ; there are few which survive the last degree of this Distemper. Therefore it is best, at first, to prevent its Progress, before it gets too far. Moulting is natural to all Birds, and yet while it lasts it may be counted dangerous, unless proper Care be taken ; for indeed we may compare the first Moulting to that of Childrens breeding their Teeth, and equally as hazardous and mortal to the Birds, as to the Children, but some Seasons are more favourable than others, that is when moulting Time comes in very warm, and concludes with temperate Weather, there is less Danger. You may discover when they begin and are in Moul, by these Symptoms, they will appear rough, melancholy, and often sleeping in the Day, with their Heads under their Wings ; you will find the Cage they are in all covered with Down and small Feathers, for the young Ones only the first Year cast their Down.

and small Feathers, and the second, their Tail and Wing Feathers; they sometimes grow very sick by Means of a little Pimple growing on their Rumps, call'd the Pip on the Tail.

The best Way is to let it have its Course, and break itself, unless the Bird is bad indeed, then he must have speedy Relief, as shall be mention'd in its Place.

They have sometimes yellow Scabs about their Heads, and sometimes their Eyes; when this Distemper spreads, nothing but Time and cooling Food will carry it off.

Several extraordinary Remedies for the Distempers before-mentioned.

If you were to little Purpose to know what Distempers Canary-Birds are troubled with, unless you were acquainted with some Things which might give them Ease.

The first is the *Surfeit*, which you will perceive by blowing up the Feathers on the Belly, it will be swell'd, and if so far gone, it will be black. Give you your Bird at first a good Share of whole Oatmeal amongst his Seed; repeat this three or four Days, in order to cleanse him; put at the same Time some Liquorice in his Water; but if you perceive him too laxative or loose, instead of Oatmeal give him Maw-Seed and bruised Hemp-Seed, because these are astringent. You may

may give him a little Groundsel and Saffron in his Water, and boil'd Milk and Bread, with Maw-Seed in it, is very good.

This is an excellent Paste for a Bird, either under the Distemper call'd a *Surfeit*, or the common Swelling: Take a Pinch of Millet-Seed, the same of Hemp, as also of Maw, Rape and Canary; let these just boil up, rince them in cold Water, to cool them; then boil a new-laid Egg hard, bruise the white and Yelk together, take about a quarter of the Egg, making it very small, put it to the Seeds, and add as much more Lettuce-Seed as any one of the others. Give this to your sick Bird, it has had good Effects on many. But you must observe, in the Morning early, before you give this Composition, to let your Bird drink two or three Times Water in which you have put some Treacle, which you may order thus; take out your leaden Pot or Glass over Night, when your Bird is at Rest, put the quantity of two Peas of Treacle in his Water, but let his Water be clean from any thing else, and when you have observ'd him to drink two or three Times, take out the Water and Treacle, rince your Pot and put in some clean Water; this do three or four Mornings before you give him the above-mentioned Composition.

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How to order them when in Moul.

WARMTH and good nourishing Food are their greatest Friends in this Distemper, for that Reason let your Birds either be where the Sun shines very strong on them; or if it does not, let your Place or Cage be kept very warm during the whole Time of their Moul; let them be where no Wind can come on them, for the least Cold may chance to kill them. Let them have as many nourishing Things as you can, as Naples Bisket, Bread and Eggs and some Saffron in their Water, bruised Hemp-Seed, Lettuce-Seed and Maw-Seed. If the Weather is very hot, during the Time of their Moul, change sometimes the Saffron-Water for other, in which steep a small Piece of Liquorice, and give them Plantain and Lettuce-Seed together; you must not give these last Things if the Weather be very cold. The Reason so many Things are prescrib'd is, that sick Birds, as well as sick Men, ought to be humour'd with what pleases them, which often proves the best Physick; if your Bird should be very bad, let him have Naples Bisket steep'd in White-Wine, and force a small Drop down their Throats, finely temper'd in your Mouth; this last must not be us'd, unless his Case be dangerous. When your Canary-Bird

Bird is troubled with the little Pimple on his Rump, called the *Pip*, and you observe Tokens of Sicknes in him, when it is ripe and full of Matter, take the Point of a fine Needle, and let out the Matter with as much Gentleness as you can; squeeze it all out; after take a Bit of Sugar moisten'd in your Mouth, and put it on the Sore, will heal it. There is a Distemper that sometimes comes on their Heads, a yellow kind of Scurf, which sometimes swells, and is full of Matter, cover'd with little Scabs; this must be suppled with Oil of Sweet Almonds, sweet Lard, fresh Butter, as it comes out of the Churn, without Salt or Capon's Grease; anoint it with any of these Things, and administer the same Food, as Lettuce-Seed, &c. As I have in some Places prescrib'd cooling or cleansing Things, and in others what is warm, dry and nourishing, I think it not amiss to explain myself, first, as to what is cooling, as Chickweed, but be not over lavish in this, give Plantain and Lettuce, or either of these, and some scalded Rape-Seed, and put a small quantity of whole Oatmeal in their common hard Seeds, and for their Drink, Water with a small Bit of Stick Liquorice.

All these are fine cooling Things, but must only be given in proper Seasons, that is, when the Spring is pretty forward, just before

before Breeding-Time, or in extream hot Weather, but don't continue these above two or three Days, least you make them scower too much, which if they do, draw some of their Tail-Feathers, put Saffron in their Water, Maw-Seed in the Tin-Pan, turning the Drawer, you put the Victuals in upside-down, covering all the Top of the Drawer with nothing but bruised Hemp-Seed. This is a soveraign Remedy for a Looseness, tho' some will give them a Head of Groundsel.

As to what is counted the Nourishing Food, and Drying, Naples Bisket alone, or mixt with hard Egg.

Bruised Hemp-Seed, Millet-Seeds, Maw-Seeds, Bread and Eggs, and Rape-Seed, mixt together, the Rape-Seed being scalded to mix the better with the Bread and Egg, in the same Manner as I have directed several Times before. While the cold Winter Season lasts, let them have sufficient of these warm and nourishing Things; and now and then a little Saffron in their Water.

There are some that make use of several Things not here mentioned, which is more the Effects of Fancy than good Judgment; and by such Sort of Practices over-do the Business, by killing their Birds with what is not proper for them, which makes out

*an old English Proverb, That too much Cook-
ing spoils the Broth.*

I am confident from these Directions, the
Ease will be different, by reason I have
mentioned nothing but what I have well
experienced, and I know to be useful; and
by these Directions young Fanciers may
be successful, which may still encrease
the Numbers of curious Persons, who for
want of Instructions, have been fearful to
venture on this so innocent and delightful
Recreation, which I do think, by means
of this *Small Treat*, they may without fear
venture to keep and manage any sort of
Birds herein mentioned; but if they find
any Difficulty, or any thing that may ap-
pear to be obscure, throughout the whole,
or if any thing may seem wanting to the
satisfaction of my Readers, I do promise
to any Person that will give themselves the
Trouble to come to my House, mentioned
in the *Title Page*, to give them all the Sa-
tisfaction or Instructions I am capable to do
by Word of Mouth: I promise this for the
Value I have for all such, who like myself,
take Pleasure in such pretty, innocent, har-
monious, and delightful little Creatures.

The Red Bird.

IS commonly called a *Virginia Nightingale*, they are very plenty in *Virginia*; they sing a very pretty Song, and something like our *English* Nightingale, but not so well; they are very beautiful Birds, and of a pretty large Size, and almost as big as a small Thrush; they are of a very fine Red upon their Breast, and have a red Tail, and a very fine large Topping upon their Heads, they are all over of a reddish Colour; they catch them in *Virginia*, in the Snow, with a Snare, as we do Larks here in *England*; they sweep the Snow away, and bait the Place with *Virginia* Wheat, or the Chaff of it, as we do with Chaff or Oats for Larks in *England*; when they take them, they commonly feed them with *Virginia* Wheat. When we have them in *England*, we feed them with Hemp and Canary-Seed; if you can break them off the Hemp, and feed them on Canary, it is the best. I keep them in a large Cage, and give them a little Wood-Lark's Meat in the Pan, and now and then a little of our Nightingale's Food, especially in the time of Moulting; or if they should be sick, I give them a Spider or a Meal-Worm.

The

The Cock is of a very beautiful Colour, and the Hen more pale. The Hen sings softer than the Cock, but not so loud nor so long. I have known several attempted to breed them here in *England*, and not bred any to Perfection.

I flatter myself, that very few will call my Judgment in question, when they consider that I have been a Dealer in Birds for forty Years past, and so continue. Therefore as I said before, I shall be ready and willing to make amends for whatsoever may seem wanting here, to all Persons that will be pleased to come to my House, as foresaid, where there is never wanting a sufficient Number of those charming Chiffchaffs of the Grove, to delight all those who are pleased with their harmonious Musick.

F I N I S.

N.B. The Author Sells all the Sorts of Birds mentioned in this BOOK, as well all Manner of Seeds, and other Provisions, for every Sort of Bird: Likewise *Wink's-Hair*, and all other convenient Things proper for Breeding *Canary-Birds*.

The

THE CONTENTS

O*F the Nightingale.* page

Concerning their Food.

How to find their Nest and take it.

The Wood-Lark.

How to take them in January.

To know the Cock from the Hen.

*A pleasant Story of the Wood-Lark
and Nightingale.*

The Skie-Lark.

How to Feed them.

How to know a Cock from a Hen.

To take Branchers or Pushers.

The CONTENTS.

the Brancher.	29
to take them in Flight.	30
the Tit-Lark.	32
the Robin-Red-Breast.	36
What Diseases Robin-Red-Breasts are subject to, and how to cure them.	38
the Wren.	39
to know a Cock from a Hen.	40
the large Tom-Tit, by some called Joe Bent.	41
the Red-Start,	Ibid.
the Black-Bird.	42
to know the Cock from the Hen.	43
the Thrush, in some Countries called the Throistle.	44
the Sterling.	46
to know a Cock from a Hen.	47
The	

The CONTENTS.

The Sparrow.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

The Linnet.

How to Feed them.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

How to catch Branchers.

How to Stop a Linnet, or any other

Bird, and make them Sing, after

they have Moulded off.

The Goldfinch.

How to Cure them when Sick.

To know the Cock from the Hen.

The Bullfinch.

To find their Nests.

How to Feed them.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

The Chaffinch.

To know a Cock from a Hen.

The CONTENTS.

the Green-Bird.	Ibid.
the Aberdevine.	64
Ib the Twite.	Ibid.
the Red-Pole.	65
the Canary-Bird.	66
How to chuse a Canary-Bird, and to know whether he hath a good Song, likewise whether a Cock or Hen.	67
to chuse a Bird in Health.	68
to chuse a Bird for Song.	70
to know a Cock from a Hen.	72
Concerning the Canary-Birds when they begin to Build, or those you intend for Breeding.	74
How to order them to make their Nests.	79
Of the several Distempers incident to Canary-Birds, and how to Cure them	

The CONTENTS.

them.
Several extraordinary Remedies
the Distempers before-mentioned.
How to order them when in Moul.
The-Red Bird.

7

6

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

Quarter of a peck pea flower
Quarter of a pound of honey
℥ of Naples Biscuits
half a pound of fresh butter
half a pound Sweet Almonds
Melt y^e Butter & honey
together Lett y^e other
Ingredients be beat well in a
Mortar, then mix them together
put Close down in an earthen
pan when prepared.



